

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 08347 030451Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 /077 W
-----116755 040603Z /20

R 030215Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 544
INFO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC HONOLULU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 8347

CINCPAC FOR POAD

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, MY
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 7516; B. STATE 243637; C. KUALA LUMPUR 7176
D. KUALA LUMPUR 6671 (NOTAL)

1. LIM KIT SIANG, THE LEADER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
OPPOSITION AND GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE DEMOCRATIC ACTION
PARTY, ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER IN PARLIAMENT OCT. 31 IF
PRESIDENT CARTER OR HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD RAISED,
OFFICIALLY OR INFORMALLY, THE QUESTION OF "DENIAL OF
HUMAN RIGHTS IN MALAYISA" DURING THE PM'S RECENT TRIP
TO THE UNITED STATES. PM HUSSEIN REPLIED THAT NEITHER THE
PRESIDENT NOR (ANY MEMBER OF) HIS ADMINISTRATION HAD
RAISED THE QUESTION OF "DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
MALAYSIA". "ON THE OTHER HAND," SAID THE PM, "DURING MY
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, A MEMBER OF HIS CABINET
(SIC) PRAISED MALAYSIA FOR HAVING A GOOD RECORD ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND ADDED THAT MALAYSIA SHOULD BE AN EXAMPLE
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TO OTHER COUNTRIES." HUSSEIN SAID THAT HE HAD TAKEN
THE OPPORTUNITY DURING THE VISIT TO EXPLAIN THE GOM'S
REASONS FOR HAVING THE INTERNAL SECURITY ACT AND ITS
PROVISIONS. THE PM ADDED, "I'M CONFIDENT THAT THE
U.S. ADMINISTRATION UNDERSTANDS THE ACTUAL SITUATION
IN OUR COUNTRY." THIS EXCHANGE WAS CARRIED IN MOST
PAPERS ON NOV. 1, BUT WAS NOT GIVEN PROMINENT PLAY.

2. COMMENT. THE QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT CAN BE SEEN AS ANOTHER STEP IN LIM KIT SIANG'S ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY WHAT EFFECT HIS REPRESENTATIONS TO US ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAD DURING PM HUSSEIN'S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES (REFTELS). THE CHINESE-LANGUAGE "SIN CHEW JIT POH" REPORTED OCT. 14 THAT LIM SAID HE HAD ALSO SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER REQUESTING A STATEMENT OF THE USG ATTITUDE TOWARD HUMAN RIGHTS IN MALAYSIA. (HE HAS NOT SENT US A COPY OF THE LETTER OR APPROACHED US DIRECTLY ON THIS SUBJECT SINCE HIS SEPT. 14 MEETING WITH THE EMBASSY'S HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICER (REFTEL D). NOW THAT PM HUSSEIN HAS CONFIRMED PUBLICLY WHAT WE HAVE TOLD THE DAP PRIVATELY (I.E., BY CONVEYING TRANSCRIPTS OF THE SEPT. 29 WHITE HOUSE NEWS CONFERENCE), IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LIM WILL RAISE THE SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH US AGAIN, EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH ANOTHER PUBLIC STATEMENT. WE DO NOT INTEND TO GET INTO A DEBATING CONTEST WITH THE OPPOSITION ON THIS, HOWEVER, AND INTEND TO REFER ANY FURTHER QUERIES TO WHAT IS ALREADY ON THE PUBLIC RECORD.
MILLER

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 03-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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